

Ex-Aide Links Threats and Violence to Jones Adviser

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21 — Terri Buford, until two months ago a top aide to the Rev. Jim Jones, told reporters today that every violent, illegal or "reprehensible" act that he or members of his Peoples Temple undertook had been initiated or approved by Timothy O. Stoen. Mr. Stoen, once a prosecutor here, was the chief legal adviser to Mr. Jones before resigning from the sect two years ago.

Miss Buford, who is 26 years old and who says that she defected from the Temple last Oct. 27, made her statements at a news conference. Her attorney, Mark Lane, had said that at the conference she would answer questions about Mr. Jones, the organization's activities and her knowledge of the events leading up to the Nov. 18 murder of Representative Leo J. Ryan and three newsmen, and the subsequent deaths of Mr. Jones and more than 900 of his followers.

In a prepared statement, and in answers to the torrent of questions that followed, Miss Buford said that she had worked closely with Mr. Stoen in the Temple for five years, and she characterized him as the principal malevolent force behind Mr. Jones.

'All Lies,' Stoen's Lawyer Says

Mr. Stoen could not be reached for comment on the charges, but his attorney, Patrick Hallinan, said that Miss Buford's remarks were "all lies."

Among her assertions — all of which, Mr. Lane said, his client had made under oath before a Federal grand jury here yesterday — were the following:

¶ Mr. Stoen "planned the murder of Lester Kinsolving," an Episcopal priest and columnist who, in 1972, wrote a series of newspaper articles critical of Mr. Jones and the Temple, and "had even used the District Attorney's office of Mendocino County," where he was employed at the time as an assistant prosecutor, "to research the type of poison that could be used."

¶ "Every death threat and every threat mailed or telephoned to former members was either initiated or cleared by Stoen," including one death threat that, Miss Buford said, Mr. Stoen had sent his estranged wife, Grace.

¶ Mr. Stoen, a graduate of the Stanford University law school, not only opened the Temple's secret bank accounts in Panama but on one occasion "smuggled more than \$500,000 in cash into Panama, with \$50,000 of that taped to his body."

¶ Mr. Stoen used his position with the District Attorneys' offices here in San Francisco and in Mendocino County to "prevent investigation of the Peoples Temple" and to gather information from law-enforcement agencies "on people the Temple was worried about."

¶ Mr. Stoen "suggested that the Peoples Temple poison the water system of Washington, D.C.," and asked one Temple member "to secure plans for the D.C. water system."

¶ Mr. Stoen used the authority of his positions as a prosecutor to "terrorize Peoples Temple members into remaining in the Peoples Temple and to frighten them out of complaining to the authorities."

Miss Buford, looking tired and strained, wearing a rumpled blue cordu-

roy pants suit, took the opportunity to rebut a number of assertions about her that have been reported in recent days.

She said that, although she was a top official of the Temple, she had never been Mr. Jones's mistress, had not been part of a purported "hit squad" set up to avenge Mr. Jones's death and had not traveled to Switzerland to remove money from secret Temple bank accounts there.

She portrayed herself, rather, as an idealistic young Quaker from Indiana who graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in journalism, joined the Temple in 1972 in a flush of enthusiasm, grew gradually aware that its leader, Mr. Jones, was "absolutely insane" and, three weeks before the killings and suicides of Nov. 18 in Guyana, fled the Temple fearing for her own life.

Stoen Lawyer Questions Motives

Mr. Stoen's lawyer, Mr. Hallinan, said in commenting on Miss Buford's charges that he found it "incredible" that the young woman, whom he characterized as Mr. Jones's "most trusted and loyal supporter," had actually defected from the Temple only to seek refuge in the home of Mr. Lane, who until last month was representing the Temple in some legal matters.

"The only explanation that makes any sense," Mr. Hallinan said, "is that Terri Buford had but one purpose in her flight from Jonestown" — the name of the Temple's commune in Guyana, northern South America — "and that was to destroy Timothy Stoen." Mr. Stoen, the lawyer said, had been blamed by Mr. Jones "for all of the evil that befell the Temple."

In addition to her remarks about Mr. Stoen, Miss Buford told the reporters of what she had related to the grand jurors yesterday about Charles Garry, the Temple's principal lawyer. She said she had told the panel that Mr. Garry knew before Nov. 18 of money secreted in Swiss bank accounts, of the Temple's illegal shipments of arms to Jonestown and, "first-hand from Jim Jones, about the mass suicide plans and that 500 Americans were nearly murdered a year before by Jim Jones, in October of 1977."

"Charles Garry probably did not know," Miss Buford continued, "that Jean Brown had stored weapons in his basement." Miss Brown is a major official of the sect who has continued to remain loyal to it.

The Jonestown Weapons

She said further of Mr. Stoen that he had also stored many weapons in his house and that he had said that "the authorities would never check his house since he was an assistant district attorney."

Federal investigators have recovered about 40 weapons from Jonestown, including some of those apparently used to kill Representative Ryan, Democrat of California, and the others in his party. They were there to investigate conditions in the commune. The Federal investigators are now attempting to determine how the weapons were transported to Guyana from this country without having been legally declared.

Miss Buford, who began living with Mr. Lane in Memphis before the Guyana tragedy, said in addition that she had un-

derstood that Mr. Stoen had gotten obtained his post with the San Francisco District Attorney's office in return for a promise that the Peoples Temple would support the incumbent prosecutor, Joseph Freitas.

The Temple subsequently contributed at least \$400 to an organization called "Friends of Freitas."

Assigned to Voter Fraud Unit

Mr. Stoen was put in charge of the voter fraud unit of the District Attorney's office. About 50 people were subsequently charged with falsely registering to vote in this city's 1975 elections, but members of the Peoples Temple were among them.

But Miss Buford said that both she and Mr. Stoen were aware of discussions in the Temple organization of plans to register some of Mr. Jones's followers to vote in San Francisco, though they resided elsewhere. Mr. Freitas, the District Attorney, has asked the California Attorney General's office to look into Mr. Stoen's handling of the voter inquiry.

Miss Buford spoke today of a "last-stand plan," that she said Mr. Jones had ordered carried out if the Temple was threatened. One element of this, she said, was the kind of mass suicide that took place in Jonestown; a second was the assassination, by cadres left behind, of defectors and certain public officials.

Among the officials on the "hit list," she said, were Evelle J. Younger, the outgoing California Attorney General, Senator John C. Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, and Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona; and G. William Hunter, the United States Attorney here, who is reported to be a close friend of Mr. Stoen's. Miss Buford said she had given those names to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



Associated Press

Terri Buford, once financial manager of the People's Temple, with Mark Lane, her attorney, at news conference in San Francisco.